

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of negotiated distribution of cache content, comprising
2 steps of:
3 selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store; ~~[[and]]~~
4 sending, to the cache store, a content distribution request message that describes the
5 candidate content; and
6 distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a content distribution response
7 message, received from the cache store responsive to the content distribution request message,
8 indicates that the cache store will accept the candidate content for caching.

Claims 2 - 3 (canceled)

1 Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further
2 comprises analyzing historical metrics to identify the candidate content.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the historical metrics represent
2 content requested over a period of time.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the content
2 distribution request message describes the candidate content's size.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the content

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2 distribution request message describes the candidate content's type.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the content
2 distribution request message describes a security classification of the candidate content.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the content
2 distribution request message describes a hit rate of the candidate content.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the selecting
2 and sending steps are performed at a Web server.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the cache
2 store is selected using historical metrics.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the candidate
2 content is selected for distribution to a plurality of cache stores, and wherein the sending step
3 sends the content distribution request message to each of the plurality of cache stores.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 selecting, when the content distribution response message indicates that the cache store
4 rejects the candidate content, an alternative cache store; and

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5 sending the content distribution request message to the alternative cache store.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the content
2 distribution request message is encoded in a structured markup language.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim 14~~ Claim 14, wherein the
2 structured markup language is Extensible Markup Language ("XML").

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the content
2 distribution request message includes an identifier for the candidate content and wherein this
3 identifier is also included in the content distribution response message.

1 Claim 17 (original): The method according to Claim 16, wherein the distributing step uses the
2 identifier to locate the candidate content to be distributed.

1 Claim 18 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the candidate content comprises
2 a plurality of files to be distributed as a unit.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A system for negotiated distribution of cache content,
2 comprising:

3 means for selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store;

4 means for sending, to the cache store, a content distribution request message that

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describes the candidate content; and

means for distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a content distribution response message, received from the cache store responsive to the content distribution request message, indicates that the cache store ~~accepts~~ will accept the candidate content for caching.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program product for negotiated distribution of cache content, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store;

computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for sending, to the cache store, a content distribution request message that describes the candidate content; and

computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a content distribution response message, received from the cache store responsive to the content distribution request message, indicates that the cache store ~~accepts~~ will accept the candidate content for caching.

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